

Civil War

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Duxbury Clipper ✓

Civil War at the Alden House

The Alden Kindred of America is holding its 102nd Annual Meeting August 2nd – 4th on the grounds of the historic Alden House. The theme at this year's gathering is the Civil War.

Ever since Colonel Briggs Alden sent four sons off to fight in the opening skirmishes of the Revolutionary War, descendants of John and Priscilla Alden have been participants in every conflict that our nation has witnessed including, of course, the Civil War. As an interesting historical note, Captain (later Rear Admiral) James M. Alden was in command of the lead ship *Brooklyn* as it entered Mobile Harbor in August, 1864. As Alden hesitated, fearful of torpedoes (as mines were called in those days) Captain J Farragut shouted to Alden that now famous phrase, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead."

This year the Aldens are bringing the Civil War to Duxbury in the form of two groups. The Providence Brigade Band is a Civil War period brass band with the mis-

sion "to educate people about the role and effect that brass bands and their music had on both soldier and civilian during the Civil War." The second is a group from the Rhode Island Reenactors Association. This latter group will be spending the entire weekend on the Alden property, setting up an encampment where they can share their experience not only with participants in the Alden reunion but with all residents of Duxbury and surrounding communities.

The Providence Brigade Band will be performing on Friday evening, August 2nd, under a large tent. The concert will get underway at 7:30 PM and last until about 9:00 PM. Admission is open to all with a \$6.00 fee per individual, \$3.00 per child under 18 with a maximum of \$15.00 per family. Light refreshments will be served at no additional cost.

The Civil War encampment will run through the entire weekend. The encampment will be open to the public on Saturday afternoon from 3:00

PM to 6:00 PM and on Sunday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Attendees will have an outstanding opportunity to tour the encampment and visit with the reenactors who provide a wealth of information on the Civil War and those who fought in its battles. Again, admission is open to all with a \$6.00 fee per individual, \$3.00 per child under 18 with a maximum of \$15.00 per family. Assorted pastries and beverages will be available. All attendees will be offered the opportunity to tour the Alden House at no additional charge.

The Alden House is open throughout the summer and early fall, closing on Columbus Day. Escorted tours are available from noon until 4 PM each day, Monday through Saturday. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students and \$2 for children age 4 to 12. For more information, call the Alden House Museum during regular office hours -weekdays from 9 am until 1 pm. The phone number is 934-9092.